

# Your Security

## *When You Rent A Car, Don't Borrow Trouble*

Driving a rented car can inform criminals you are far from home and don't know your way around. It might mean you are an easy mark for car-jacking, theft or assault.

### **Here are some tips for safe travel in a rented vehicle:**

- Choose a vehicle with power door locks, power hood and trunk release. It is preferable to have a car phone too, in case you have to call for help.
- Before you start out, make sure you can operate all the controls on the vehicle.
- If driving locally, have the rental office provide you with emergency phone numbers.
- As you leave the airport or other location where you rent a vehicle, be sure of your route so you do not get lost or have to stop for directions. Ask for a map and have the rental clerk mark your route on the map. Study the map before driving away. Some popular tourist destinations have highway signs indicating the safest

tourist route. Keep an eye out for these signs.

- Don't be obvious when you are looking at maps. Don't leave maps, travel brochures or car rental documents on the car seat where they can be seen.

- Keep valuables out of sight, including luggage and cameras identifying you as a traveler.

### **Here are more tips for personal and property security while you are traveling by car, air or other transportation:**

- Photocopy your travelers' checks, credit cards, airline tickets and passport. Leave one set of copies with a friend or relative. Carry the second set with you, separate from the originals.
- Use only your last name and first initial, a post office box or business address and phone number on luggage. Use covered luggage tags which shield this information from casual observers. This is to protect your identity so a burglar will not head for your

home as you head out of town. Place a slip of paper or a card with your address and phone number inside your luggage in case the outside luggage tag is lost.

- Do not discuss your travel plans in front of strangers.
- While meeting new people is one of the most enjoyable aspects of travel, be careful. Someone you meet at an airport or on a bus could be setting you up as a crime victim.
- Stay straight and sober so you can stay alert. Having a few too many drinks in the company of strangers can land you in serious trouble far from home.

*When traveling in a rented vehicle, don't be obvious. Do your best to downplay the fact you are a traveler, and don't accidentally give valuable information to criminals.*

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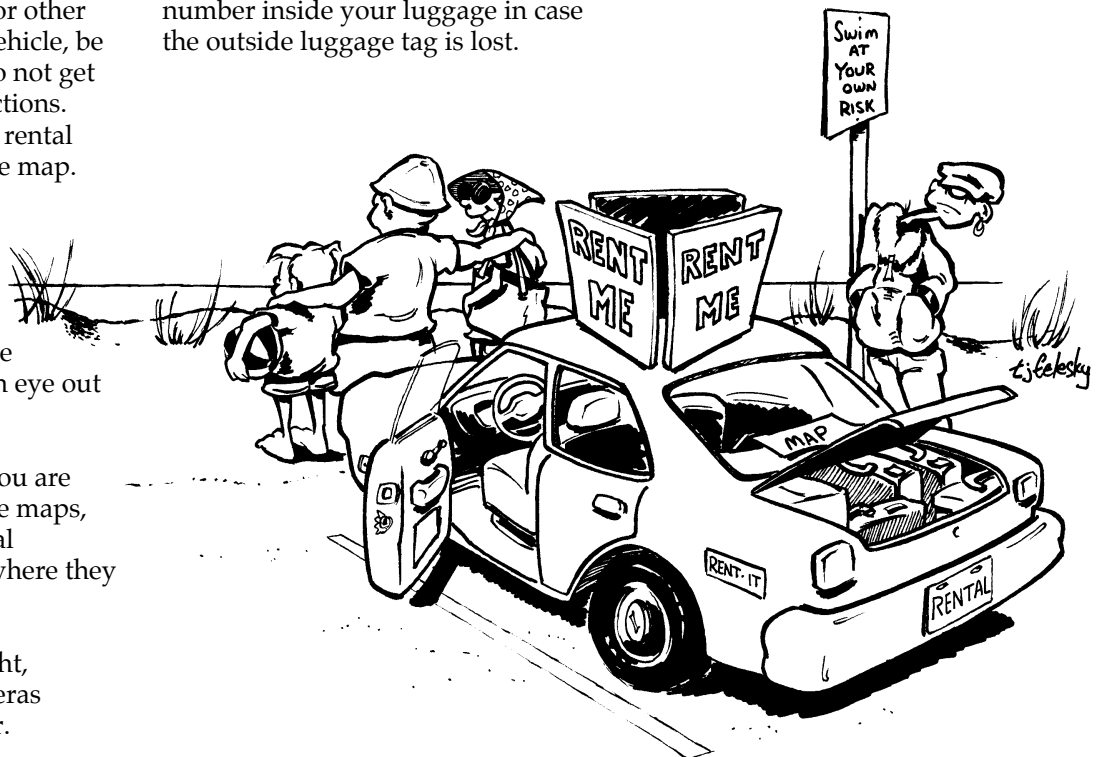
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